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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Hiroshi **Onuma** (Japan)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Part one
Plan outline

1. At its 7th meeting, on 4 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Part one) and Corr.1).

2. The Chef de Cabinet introduced the plan outline and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the plan outline.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the presentation of the document, which reflected the strategies to be applied in achieving the longer-term objectives of the Organization in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly. Some delegations, recognizing that the outline was an overarching document that could not cover all aspects of the Organization's work, commended the Secretary-General on preparing a good outline that covered the priorities. Other delegations said that the outline could have been more ambitious and less gloomy.

4. Concern was expressed regarding the non-inclusion of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in addition to matters pertaining to outer space, oceans and seas, in the plan outline. Attention was drawn to other important issues not included therein, such as the right to

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development, managed migration and refugees. The view was expressed that the outline should have included aspects of risk management, which should fall under the purview of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

5. Support was expressed for the eight priority areas identified in the plan outline. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion of priorities focusing on countries in special circumstances, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries in conflict where the most vulnerable were marginalized.

6. Views were expressed regarding the need for common development as a longer-term objective of the Organization, given that that would be the basis for sustainable development. Poverty eradication was identified as a priority area. It was said that the Organization shouldered a primary and irreplaceable role in maintaining peace and security and in preventive diplomacy.

7. Concern was expressed regarding the direct link between youth unemployment and violence, which appeared to focus only on youth and not on other areas that could also contribute to violence. The view was expressed that the relationship between organized crime and intra-State and inter-State conflict was not symbiotic. Organized crime could be transnational and not necessarily linked to such conflict.

8. Attention was drawn to the difficulties faced by developing countries in implementing sustainable management of natural resources, with clarification sought on how that was taken into account by intergovernmental forums.

9. It was asked whether the United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) had been approved. Clarification was sought on the negotiations of the new development goals after 2015 and how that would be reflected in the strategic framework for 2016-2017.

10. Clarification was also sought regarding the use of such terms as "Member State groupings", "peacekeeping reform measures", "partnership with contributing countries", "intra-State conflict" and "external actors", in addition to the determination and measurement of "gross and systematic violations of human rights".

11. Clarification was further sought on the possible duplication of functions relating to post-conflict rehabilitation between the United Nations, the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations Development Programme.

12. Appreciation was expressed for efforts to keep the issue of Africa high on the Organization's agenda. The view was expressed that, although the Organization, in order to take the core development of Africa forward, needed to strengthen security in Africa by providing close support to, and working in partnership with, the African Union, as well as by establishing close collaborative relations with regional and subregional organizations, the relationship should be one of reciprocity.

13. Appreciation was expressed to United Nations staff serving in unsafe locations. Clarification was provided on action taken by the Organization to protect its staff. On the issue of humanitarian assistance efforts, in particular increasing accessibility problems, unsafe operating environments and decreasing respect for United Nations immunity in the field, concern was expressed regarding the recent establishment of intervention brigades in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

14. Clarification was sought as to who was responsible for determining gross and systematic violations of human rights. Concern was expressed regarding the secondary role given to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, given that it did not benefit from resources from the regular budget. In respect of disarmament and development, clarification was sought on the implementation of educational and outreach programmes and training and advisory services.

15. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion of General Assembly resolution 66/257 on progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat. Concern was expressed, however, that resolution 68/264, which dealt with the same subject, had not been included.

16. Clarification was sought on the total cost, scope and application of the enterprise resource planning project (Umoja) and on the problems identified during the implementation phase, especially in field offices. It was said that better management of Umoja, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the global field support strategy was critical. Queries were raised as to whether other initiatives were being implemented to increase the effectiveness of the Organization.

17. The Organization's continued focus on measurability and impact, including by improving the link between indicators of achievement and expected accomplishments, was welcomed. Concern was raised as to how to measure programmes that did not solely depend on the Organization or Member States, but on external factors. Views were expressed on the use of better indicators focusing on mandates affecting people's lives.

18. Serious concern was expressed regarding the instruction given to programme managers by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts to reduce the length of their respective biennial programmes, which had the sole purpose of generating savings without taking into account the very political nature and delicate political balance of the programmes. In addition, such instruction ignored the fact that the content of the programmes was the result of extensive and difficult negotiations among Member States.

19. Delegations expressed great regret at the above-mentioned decision, which had had a negative impact on the negotiations of the strategic framework, the normal development of the session of the Committee and the positive environment needed for the negotiations and the decision-making process.

20. Other delegations expressed the view that the proposed modifications were within the purview of the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer and were in line with the existing rules and regulations of the United Nations.

21. Concern was expressed over the lack of consistency in the consideration of the proposed biennial programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies. Delegations considered that the Secretary-General should guarantee the implementation of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

22. The need for the Secretariat to fully implement all decisions adopted by Member States and to fully respect the distinct roles of the principal bodies, as contained in the Charter of the United Nations, was reiterated. It was noted that the

proposed strategic framework did not include the specific measures and information on action taken by the Secretary-General to promote a culture of accountability within the Secretariat, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/236.

23. Delegations acknowledged the actions of the Secretariat aimed at contributing to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. In that context, they reiterated the need for the Secretary-General to give assurances that actions of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including those relating to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, were in full compliance with the decisions of Member States. Delegations expressed regret at the inclusion of concepts, objectives and indicators of achievement without specific intergovernmental mandates, including some that could be interpreted as a partial approach of the Secretariat to the positions of some countries or group of countries.

24. They reiterated that the expected accomplishments and performance indicators measured the Secretariat, not the Member States. In that context, concern was expressed regarding the inclusion of proposals that went beyond the prerogative of the Secretariat, including some that interfered in the sovereignty of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

25. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the eight priorities for the period 2016-2017, as set out in paragraph 34 of the plan outline (A/69/6 (Part one) and Corr.1).**

26. **In view of the differences among Member States on some aspects of the plan outline, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the plan outline at its sixty-ninth session, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**